

Have You Seen These Signs?

- Fires of unknown origin in your home
- Small burn holes in carpets, charred paper in sinks or wastebaskets
- Matches or lighter hidden in your child's closet or under the bed
- A fascination with fires and burning buildings that comes up in a child's conversations

**For more information,
contact:**

Somerset County Firewatch

(908) 704-6353

Fax: (908) 253-0180

firewatch@co.somerset.nj.us

Firewatch Program



Sponsored by the
**Somerset County Board of
County Commissioners**

Phone: (908) 704-6353

Fax: (908) 253-0180

OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the Somerset County Firewatch Program to reduce the firesetting activities of youth in our community through a process of prevention, identification, education, and treatment.

Who can make a referral?

Parents, guardians, teachers, police, child protection workers or anyone who is concerned about a child's firesetting.

What happens next?

A staff person from the program will contact the family to explain the program and schedule an interview for the child and parent/guardian.

What is the purpose of the interview?

The interviewer's questions help identify the level of risk, in order to recommend the most appropriate education and/or counseling.

Is the interview confidential?

Program staff will not share information with anyone unless authorized to do so by the parent/guardian. Participation in the Firewatch Program will not trigger a police investigation; however, a child who participates in delinquent firesetting cannot be shielded from an on-going law enforcement investigation.

Who provides follow-up help after the interview?

If the interviewer recommends fire safety education, the child will be scheduled to meet with a firefighter who has received special training. If mental health counseling is recommended, staff will work with the family to identify an appropriate provider and schedule an appointment.



FACT: 81% of youth will repeat inappropriate fire-setting behavior if untreated